

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 and 14-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5, 22 and 23 are amended to even more clearly distinguish over the applied references. In addition, claims 22 and 23 are amended to recite a computer-readable recording medium in accordance with the current PTO guidelines regarding 35 U.S.C. §101. The amendments to the independent claims are supported in the original specification at, for example, Fig. 8 (step S108), Fig. 10 (step S121), Fig. 10 (step S122) and the corresponding descriptions in the specification. Thus, no new matter is added.

Claims 1-5 and 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,721,001 (Berstis) in view of JP-A-9-37125 (Tamura) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,833,861 (Matsumoto et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the references do not collectively suggest the combinations of features recited in independent claims 1, 5, 22 and 23. In particular, the references do not suggest arrangements in which one or more digital images stored in a camera memory are deleted from the camera memory after being successfully transmitted from the camera memory and stored in the storage medium of a data storage, the one or more digital images being deleted from the memory based on a signal supplied from the data storage, and the one or more digital images not being deleted from the memory if those digital images are protected against deletion, as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 22 and 23. As recognized in the Office Action, the previously-asserted combination of Berstis and Tamura does not suggest the deletion of digital images from a camera memory after transmitted images have been successfully stored in the medium of a data storage. Matsumoto et al. discloses deleting transmitted images after a recipient printer sends an "acknowledgement signal" back to the camera. See col. 5, lines 43-53, and col. 6, lines 3-7, of Matsumoto et al. However, Matsumoto et al. combined with Berstis and Tamura does not suggest deleting

digital images from a camera memory based on a signal supplied from a data storage, wherein digital images are not deleted from the memory if those images are protected against deletion. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of features recited in independent claims 1, 5, 22 and 23 would not have been obvious over Berstis, Tamura and Matsumoto et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

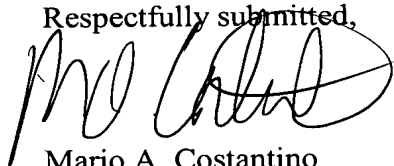
Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the references applied against independent claim 5, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,668,134 (Niikawa). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Niikawa does not overcome the deficiencies noted above with respect to independent claim 5. Accordingly, claims 6-8 are patentable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 5. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:jls

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: July 24, 2007

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